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they were of opinion that the scheme was quite practicable and was not very costly. He therefore requested that an investigation might be ordered by the Government through the Revenue Department. That Department might be requested also to submit a list of the *Chiras* in the locality. The Member added that the ryots of the locality were also prepared to meet the Government half way in the matter of cost, should the Government be pleased to carry out the scheme suggested by him.

Dewan's reply.—Mr. Atchuthan Pillai is requested to put the details of his scheme in writing and send the same to the Government. The suggestions of the other Members are noted.

(2). *Industries.*

40. The present condition of Industries in the State and the need for developing the same.

Mr. A. Harihara Iyer (Member, Chirayinkil Taluk) said that the present industrial condition of the State was very deplorable and required the earnest attention of the Government. The hills and forests of the country contained a mine of wealth, which only required an expert hand to tap them and turn them to useful account. Facilities were also not wanting. In point of education, the people of Travancore could be said to be even ahead of those of other countries. The forests were valuable, the soil was good, the seasons were favourable, and labour was cheap. With all these advantages, it was very discouraging that the bulk of the people were poor and were struggling for existence. Every one wanted to get into the Sirkar service, for which the competition was very keen. In the opinion of the Member, the remedy was to be had in industrial development. The people of the country were till recently left to themselves in the matter of agriculture. The Government took a step in the right direction when they organised a Department of Agriculture and the people were deriving much benefit from the Department ever since. But, the subject of 'industries' was even more important than that of 'agriculture,' because, in the case of agriculture, land was required, and the extent of the cultivable area in the State could not be increased; while industries admitted of development at all times, and if that were done, it would make the people richer and the country also richer and more prosperous through the people. At present, several articles were being exported from the country, as though they were not of use to the country, and they were being re-imported into it as manufactured articles several times more costly and valuable. For want of proper men with sufficient

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technical knowledge and for want of support, many things which could be turned easily and with little cost into articles of much value, were being wasted. As an instance, he cited the case of the pine apple leaves, out of which, excellent fibre, equal to silk in quality and even superior to it in point of strength, could be extracted; and he exhibited before the Assembly a handkerchief woven out of the pine-apple fibre. He also mentioned as other instances, the odallum fruit, nuxvomica (kanjiram) out of which strychnine was manufactured, chappongu &c. The Member therefore requested the earnest consideration of the Government to this important subject and he suggested that a Committee be appointed to conduct an Industrial Survey of the country and to enquire into and report on the existing industries in the State and the new industries which could be started. As a result of the investigation, it should be found out what things could be immediately worked upon with great practical benefit and without much cost. After the report was received, the Government should start a few industries here and there, and in course of time they should withdraw and leave those industries in the hands of the people. The Government should also encourage men coming forward for industrial enterprises. The Member concluded by saying that he only submitted a suggestion, and that it should take practical shape at the hands of the Government, whose responsibility in the matter was, in his opinion, very great.

Dewan's reply.—The Member has dealt with an important subject well. His suggestions are noted.

41. Technical studies with special reference to industries like coir-yarn, copra, and weaving.

Mr. N. Kumaran Ashan (Member, Nominated) said that coir-yarn, copra and weaving were some of the staple industries of the State and that they were mostly in the hands of the Ezhavas. As the prosperity of the people and of the State greatly depended upon the successful and systematic development of industries, the Member thought it was high time that the Government should take into their hands the organisation and development of those industries. He suggested that the industries might be organised on a scientific basis and placed under the charge of young men who had obtained special training in Europe or America. He pointed out that, as the Ezhava community had much interest in the above industries, it would be desirable to send some young men from that community to foreign countries to undergo training.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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